

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 444

By Miller

A RESOLUTION to honor Reverend Walter Smith upon becoming Senior Pastor of Union Grove Baptist Church.

WHEREAS, the church supports a healthy and safe community for all families and is concerned about the spiritual well-being of all mankind; and

WHEREAS, the Union Grove Baptist Church was established on December 26, 1938, at 441 Beale Street in Memphis, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, since its inception seventy-five years ago, Union Grove has only had four pastors serve as Senior Pastor; and

WHEREAS, the late and great Reverend James E. Smith served for some forty-two years, until his passing in 2012; and

WHEREAS, now the torch has been passed on to his brother Reverend Walter Smith who has served as interim pastor since April 2008; and

WHEREAS, since Pastor Walter Smith became the interim pastor, he has taken on the role of leader in the Frayser community, helping in the establishment of a number of non-profit organizations; and

WHEREAS, he now serves as the Chairman of the Board of Rangeline Community Development Corporation, a non-profit helping to change the face of Frayser; and

WHEREAS, in honor of his brother, Reverend Smith helped to establish the Reverend James E. Smith Resource Center, a place that helps to serve the needs of many residents in the Frayser community; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Walter Smith is a faithful husband to his beloved wife, Alice F. Clark-Smith, and is a devoted father to three beautiful daughters, one wonderful son, and seven treasured grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, it is highly appropriate that we pause in our deliberations to honor such an esteemed gentleman who has devoted himself to improving the lives of his fellow citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Reverend Walter Smith for his service to his community, congratulate him on becoming Senior Pastor of Union Grove Baptist Church, and extend to him our best wishes for much success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.